

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An internal treatment apparatus for a patient having a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body comprising:

a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and disposed at a center of an end face of said flexible tubular body; and

a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in said flexible tubular body at equi-angular intervals around said center opening.

2. (Original) An internal treatment system for a patient comprising:

a flexible tubular body, to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and disposed at a center of an end face of said flexible

tubular body, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in said flexible tubular body at equi-angular intervals around said center opening;

a body manipulating device for manipulating said flexible tubular body from outside said patient;

an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating said endoscope from outside said patient; and

a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating said surgical instruments from outside said patient.

3. (Original) An internal treatment apparatus for a patient comprising a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body comprising:

a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening extending through said flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and

a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend

through said flexible tubular body from a side face of said flexible tubular body.

4. (Original) An internal treatment system for a patient comprising:
 - a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and extending through said flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend through said flexible tubular body from a side face of said flexible tubular body;
 - a body manipulating device for manipulating said flexible tubular body from outside said patient;
 - an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating said endoscope from outside said patient; and
 - a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating said surgical instruments from outside said patient.

5. (Original) An internal treatment apparatus for a patient comprising a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body comprising:

a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening extending through said flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and

a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, each of said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend through said flexible tubular body in an area including said distal end face and a side face of said flexible tubular body.

6. (Original) An internal treatment system for a patient comprising:

a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and extending through said flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, each of said plurality of circumferential apertures being

provided to extend through said flexible tubular body in an area including said distal end face and a side face of said flexible tubular body;

a body manipulating device for manipulating said flexible tubular body from outside said patient;

an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating said endoscope from outside said patient; and

a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating said surgical instruments from outside said patient.

7. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, ~~3 or 5~~, wherein said endoscope is a stereoscopic endoscope allowing an operator to stereoscopically observe the target site.

8. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, ~~3 or 5~~, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises a monitor device allowing an operator to observe a vicinity of a distal end of said surgical instrument.

9. (Original) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 8, wherein

 said surgical instrument comprises an illumination device which allows an operator to illuminate a vicinity of said distal end of said surgical instrument with light.

10. (Original) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 9, wherein said surgical instrument comprises at least one of an air feed device and a water feed device which allows an operator to clean a distal end of said monitor device.

11. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, ~~4 or 6~~, further comprising an image displaying device for displaying an image formed by said endoscope.

12. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, ~~3 or 5~~, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

13. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, ~~3 or 5~~, wherein said surgical instrument comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

14. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 3 or ~~5~~, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises grooves provided between each adjacent said circumferential apertures.

15. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 3 or ~~5~~, wherein a projection angle of said surgical instruments from said flexible tubular body is smaller than a half angle of a field-of-view of said endoscope.

16. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 3 or ~~5~~, wherein said endoscope comprises an illumination device which emits white light, and said surgical instruments each comprises an illumination device which emits colored light.

17. (Original) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 16, wherein each said illumination device of said surgical instruments continuously emits colored light.

18. (Original) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 16, wherein each said illumination device of said surgical instruments emits colored light intermittently.

19. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 3 ~~or 5~~, wherein said endoscope comprises an illumination device, and said surgical instruments each comprises an illumination device which emits light having light intensity different from that of light emitted from said illumination device of said endoscope.

20. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, 4~~or 6~~, wherein

 said endoscope is a stereoscopic endoscope allowing an operator to stereoscopically observe the target site.

21. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, 4~~or 6~~, wherein

 said surgical instrument comprises a monitor device which allows an operator to observe a vicinity of a distal end of said surgical instrument.

22. (Original) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 21, wherein

 said surgical instrument comprises an illumination device which allows an operator to illuminate a vicinity of said distal end of said surgical instrument with light.

23. (Original) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 22, wherein

 said surgical instrument comprises at least one of an air feed device and a water feed device which allows an operator to clean a distal end of said monitor means.

24. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, ~~4 or 6~~, further comprising an image displaying device for displaying an image provided by said endoscope.

25. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, ~~4 or 6~~, wherein

 said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

26. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, ~~4 or 6~~, wherein

 said surgical instrument comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

27. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 4 ~~or 6~~, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises grooves provided between each adjacent said circumferential apertures.

28. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 4 or 6, wherein a projection angle of said surgical instruments from said flexible tubular body is smaller than a half angle of a field-of-view of said endoscope.

29. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 4 or 6, wherein said endoscope comprises an illumination device which emits white light, and said surgical instruments each comprises an illumination device which emits colored light.

30. (Original) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 29, wherein each said illumination device of said surgical instruments continuously emits colored light.

31. (Original) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 29, wherein each said illumination device of said surgical instruments emits colored light intermittently.

32. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 4 or 6, wherein said endoscope comprises an illumination device, and said surgical instruments each comprises an illumination device which emits light having light intensity different from that of light emitted from said illumination device of said endoscope.